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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 050845Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TAIPEI 3979

FOR: EA/ROC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TW
SUBJECT: CNA "TAIWAN MOOD" STORY

1. FOLLOWING COMPLETE TEXT OF JULY 5 CNA TAIPEI STORY BY P. P. TANG, CARRIED IN TODAY'S EXPRESS NEWS AND ABBREVIATED IN CHINA POST:

2. (BEGIN TEXT) AMERICA'S 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WAS OBSERVED HERE MONDAY WITHOUT MUCH FANFARE.

3. PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN SENT A CONGRATULATORY CABLE TO PRESIDENT CARTER; AMBASSADOR LEONARD UNGER HOSTED A JULY FOURTH RECEPTION WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY RANKING CHINESE OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE TAIPEI DIPLOMATIC CORPS; AND THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CLUB CELEBRATED THE OCCASION WITH A DINNER AND A SPEECH BY FINANCE MINISTER WALTER H. FEI ON THE EVE OF THE FOURTH OF JULY.

4. TO MOST OF TAIWAN'S 16 MILLION PEOPLE, IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ALIEN NATIONAL HOLIDAY. WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE SAID ABOUT THEIR FUTURE LAST WEEK
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APPEARED TO HAVE HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON THE MAN IN THE STREET.

5. COMMUTERS WERE STILL COMPLAINING WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT THE INCONVENIENCE BROUGHT ON BY THE RECENT INTEGRATION OF BUS COMPANIES AND RESCHEDULING OF BUS SERVICES. PARENTS WERE ABSORBED IN THE OUTCOME OF THEIR

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CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE IN THE JOINT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS. STUDENTS WERE BUSY MAKING PLANS FOR THEIR LONG SUMMER VACATION. AND BUSINESSMEN WERE TRYING TO FIGURES OUT COUPS TO ATTRACT CONSUMERS.

6. MOVIE HOUSES AND BEACHES WERE WHERE HUGE MILLING CROWDS COULD BE FOUND. COFFEESHOPS, WHICH ARE NUMEROUS, ALSO TOOK A FAIR SHARE OF THE PEOPLE.

7. IN CASUAL AND PRIVATE TALKS, SOME DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF WASHINGTON'S NEW MOVES. TO SOME IT BROUGHT A SENSE OF UNEASINESS, BUT NOT FEAR.

8. EVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO WHAT CARTER AND VANCE HAVE SAID HAS BEEN REGARDED "MILDER" THAN EVERYBODY HAD EXPECTED. WHILE SEVERAL FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT "MADE A STRONG PROTEST" WITH THE U.S., BUT ACTUALLY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN'S STATEMENT MERELY EXPRESSED HIS "STRONG EXCEPTION" AGAINST VANCE'S VIEWS; HE DID NOT FILE A PROTEST.

9. EXPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO LODGE A PROTEST, A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE SAID: "WE DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT MR. VANCE SAID. BUT THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HE CAN SAY AND WHAT HE CAN DO. MAYBE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. IS READY TO DO WHAT WE DON'T LIKE. BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO REACT TO IT AS IT HASTXOT YET HAPPENED... ACTUALLY WE ARE STILL HOPING THAT WORDS WILL NOT MATERIALIZE INTO DEEDS."

10. ASKED ABOUT HIS REACTION, A TAIPEI TAXI DRIVER BECAME FURIOUS AND SAID:

11. "THIS IS PROBABLY THE 15TH TIME THAT A CUSTOMER HAS ASKED ME ABOUT THIS QUESTION. AND MOST OF THEM WERE FOREIGNERS. THEY ASKED ME WHAT WAS MY FEELING NOW THAT AMERICA MAY CUT OFF RELATIONS WITH MY COUNTRY AND RECOGNIZE THE COMMUNISTS? I DON'T KNOW POLITICS, I TOLD THEM, AND AM TELLING YOU THE SAME THING: I DON'T CARE WHAT AMERICA DOES AS LONG AS I CAN IMPROVE MY LOT DAY AFTER DAY BY DRIVING A CAB. I DON'T MAKE VERY MUCH BUT I CAN MAKE ENDS MEET. I DON'T WANT TO LIVE UNDER THE COMMUNISTS. IF THEY SHOULD COME, IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING; AND I AM READY TO FIGHT THEM."

12. HE SAID HE LEARNED FROM THE RADIO WHAT CARTER AND VANCE SAID ABOUT TAIWAN. "I CAN RECITE THE STORY NOW

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BECAUSE THE RADIO KEPT REPEATING THE SAME STORY EVERY
HOUR ON THE HOUR LAST THURSDAY."

13. LOCAL EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE MORE
ALARMED BY THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

14. "IT IS A SURPRISE TO HEAR MR. CARTER HINTING THAT
WASHINGTON MIGHT CUT OFF RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI TO
NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEIPING. HE HAS GONE BEYOND THE
LIMIT HE SET HIMSELF EARLIER ON THIS MATTER. IT IS NOT
ONLY SURPRISING BUT ALARMING," AN EXPERT SAID.

15. WHILE SHARING THE OFFICIAL VIEW THAT WHAT CAN BE
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SAID MAY NOT BE DONE, THE EXPERT SAID "IT IS NOT THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ALONE WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED IF
WASHINGTON REALLY GOES OUT AND COMPLETE THE NORMALIZATION
PROCESS WITH THE PEIPING REGIME. THE WHOLE STRUCTURE
OF BALANCE IN ASIA WILL BE CHANGED. AND IT IS VERY
LIKELY THAT WASHINGTON'S RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW WILL
ALSO BE AFFECTED."

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16. PIS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT WASHINGTON HAS

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"DELIBERATELY EXPRESSED" ITS INTENTION OF NORMALIZING
RELATIONS WITH PEIPING AT THIS JUNCTURE BECAUSE THE
AMERICANS WANT TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE RUSSIANS AT
THE DEADLOCKED SALT II NEGOTIATIONS.

17. ON THE OTHER HAND, WASHINGTON WANTED TO EXPLOIT
THE RECENTLY ESCALATED PROPAGANDA WARFARE BETWEEN MOSCOW
AND PEIPING TO MAKE A MUCH-FEARED-ABOUT RECONCILIATION
BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN AND CHINESE COMMUNISTS MORE DIFFICULT
FOR THEM.

18. "BUT WASHINGTON CANNOT AFFORD TO GO TOO FAR IN THIS
SCHEME. THE FACT THAT THE U.S. ATTACHES SO MUCH
IMPORTANCE TO SALT II AND CONTINUED HOSTILITY BETWEEN
MOSCOW AND PEIPING WILL MAKE THE RUSSIANS MORE CONFIDENT
AND UNCOMPROMISING IN DEALING WITH THE AMERICANS,"
ANOTHER EXPERT SAID.

19. WHETHER VANCE'S AUGUST TRIP TO PEIPING WOULD BRING
ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TO WASHINGTON-PEIPING RELATIONS
DEPENDS HEAVILY ON MOSCOW'S REACTION TO U.S. DIPLOMATIC
MOVES BETWEEN NOW AND BEFORE VANCE'S DEPARTURE
FOR PEIPING, HE ADDED.
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20. TURNING TO TAIPEI'S REACTION, IT IS GENERALLY
BELIEVED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S ESTABLISHED
POLICY OF NEVER NEGOTIATING WITH THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT
CHANGE IN ANY EVENT, EVEN IF THE U.S. DECIDES TO SWITCH
DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FROM TAIPEI TO PEIPING.

21. "NO COUNTRY, EVEN THE U.S., AND NO CRISIS, EVEN
A RUPTURE OF U.S. TIES, CAN FORCE US TO NEGOTIATE WITH
OUR ENEMY FOR OUR FREEDOM," THE EXPERT SAID.

22. IF THE WORST SHOULD COME, HE ADDED, THE PEOPLE
AND GOVERNMENT IN TAIWAN WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR
WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.

23. "I DON'T THINK THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WAR
BREAKING OUT IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS; BECAUSE THEN
COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL BE EITHER DIRECTLY AFFECTED
OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED," HE SAID. (END TEXT)
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